

**MINUTES OF A SPECIAL MEETING/PUBLIC HEARING OF THE  
MESCAL-J6 FIRE DISTRICT GOVERNING BOARD  
HELD ON Wednesday, June 27<sup>th</sup>, 2018 6:30 PM**

The meeting was called to order at 1838, by Board Chair Mark Lee. Present at roll call were Board Members Mark Lee, Owen Kieley, Mary Bowen, and Sue Dupee.

- Item 1:       Review of the 2018/2019 Five-Year Plan: Chief Moran presented the draft five-year plan to the Board. Mark Lee gave a brief explanation of the purpose of having a five-year plan. The Board and John Moran answered several questions from community members.
- Item 2:       Review of the 2018/2019 Draft Operations & Maintenance Budget and Reserve Budget: Chief Moran presented the Draft Operations & Maintenance Budget to the Board. The Board reviewed the Draft Budget.
- Item 3:       Public Hearing: Mark Lee opened the floor to community members that wished to voice their concerns.

Greg Radzykewycz voiced his concerns about the accuracy of the District's financial reports, and the District's ability to do an accurate budget. He requested that the District table approving the 2018/2019 budgets until "The District has its financial house in order".

Mary McCool requested to speak as the Board Chair of the J6-Mescal Community Development Organization (J6-Mescal CDO). Mark Lee requested that she either speak as herself or not at all, as the J6-Mescal CDO does not own land in the District. Mary McCool responded that she has spoken with the County Attorney and they stated that she is "authorized to speak for her membership". Mary McCool presented the board with a packet of her concerns. (Attached) She stated that the CDO opposes the Public Hearing begin held because she believes the District did not fulfill their posting requirements. She stated that she believes the District can not accurately make a Budget based on "7 months of questionable financial reports". Ms. McCool also stated that she believes the District should not include the \$30,000 additional income listed for Wildland Fires without the Board addressing her request for an internal investigation validating that the District sent those billings out in the allotted time frame. She stated that "Most importantly" she and the CDO opposes the District moving forward with the Budget process, as it will be used to calculate the community's property taxes.

Mike Nervik stated that he would like to go on record representing himself as a tax paying member of the District to say that he supports the CDO's stance and would like the documentation provided by Mary McCool to reflect him in its entirety. He stated that there is enough of a "question mark" with the District's financials to warrant the District employing an independent third party to look at the documents as a forensic CPA, and "not one think on the five-year plan is attainable without a balanced check book to start with".

Harry Stacy asked the Board if they were going to address any of the community's concerns "tonight". Mark Lee responded, "probably not". Mr. Stacy asked if the Board was just "going to ignore us" and Mark Lee responded "probably". Mark Lee stated that the District is in the process of trying to resolve all of "these things" with the county.

Mike Nervik requested to speak. He stated that even if the District makes great decisions tonight, and it isn't done according to state statute then everything that has been accomplished will be wiped clean and the District will have to start all over again.

Mark Lee stated that he would be willing to address the issue of the budget posting timeline. Chief Moran stated that on the day the complaint was launched with the county the Budget documents that were posted were torn down. Mark Lee added that the lock was busted on one of the boards, and the notices were stolen. Leigha Woolums stated that she can bear witness to the fact that one of the locks on the boards had been destroyed. Chief Moran stated that the District does not have a duty to monitor the postings. Harry Stacy asked if all the boards had been broken into, and Chief Moran responded "yes". Greg Radzykewycz stated that the postings were not on the board on the 6<sup>th</sup>, or the 12<sup>th</sup>. Mark Lee stated that Chief Moran signs an affidavit stating when he posts the notices. Mark Lee stated that when the District found out the postings had been removed they were replaced immediately.

Mark Lee also addressed the community's concerns about past inaccurate financial reports, stating that the District has employed their third CPA to help review the financials and to make any corrections that need to be made. As far as the 2018/2019 budget, it is based on information from the county on how much the District is projected to collect.

Kristy Samantha asked the Board how the District is going to prevent Pima County and Cochise County from having different tax rates. Mark Lee responded stating that both counties have set up new protocols to prevent different tax rates from being adopted, and that the District has no control over the tax rate.

There was discussion between Mike Nervik and the Board pertaining to resources that are available through the AFDA pertaining to financial reporting.

Item 4: Adoption of the 2018/2019 Budget Package: Mark Lee stated that the Board had not reviewed the draft 2018/2019 Reserve Budget. The Board reviewed the 2018/2019 Reserve Budget.

Mary Bowen made a motion to approve the 2018/2019 Operations and Maintenance budget. Owen Kieley seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.

Mary Bowen made a motion to approve the 2018/2019 Reserve Budget. Sue Dupee seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.

Mary Bowen made a motion to approve the 2018/2019 Five-Year Plan. Sue Dupee seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.

Chief Moran asked to speak, and stated that if anyone wishes to come to the office and look at the Districts financials, they are more than welcome to do so. He also stated that anyone who wishes to be included in the monthly mail out of financials that can also be arranged.

Item 5: Adjourn: Owen Kieley made a motion to adjourn, Mary Bowen seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.

Mark Lee adjourned the meeting at 1923.

Minutes compiled and submitted by:

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Leigha Woolums". The ink is dark and the signature is written in a fluid, connected style.

Leigha Woolums, Administrative Assistant  
**DATE 6/29/2018**